

Polk County AgriLife Extension Beef/Forage & Natural Resources Newsletter

Local Programs

Produce Growers
Breakfast: Fruit Tree
Selection for Polk
County
Jan. 27

Tree Giveaway
Feb. 3

Forest Pest Seminar
Feb. 10

East Texas Natural
Resources Tours:
East Texas Plant
Material Center,
Winston 8 Ranch,
SFA Experimental
Forest
March 3

Produce Growers
Breakfast:
Preserving the
Harvest
March 31

Additional AgriLife Programs

AgriLife Learn Online
Courses

Hay Meadow's Friend or Foe?

Annual Ryegrass...a cool season annual forage often utilized by livestock producers for winter grazing. However, it's often deemed an enemy of many a hay producer in East Texas. Volunteer annual ryegrass can be common in hay meadows. Winter rainfalls can promote seed germination and seeds can survive for multiple years in our soils. Later maturity of annual ryegrass can delay or prevent our warm season perennial forages (i.e. bermudagrass or bahiagrass) from breaking dormancy in April/May therefore delaying our initial hay cutting.

So how do we manage this unwanted ryegrass? We have several options:

Graze it. If your hay meadow happens to be fenced as well as have a source of water, grazing can be an excellent way to utilize the high-quality forage as well as remove it from the meadow.

Bale it. Harvesting ryegrass for baleage or a dry hay is an option. Baleage or haylage is forage baled at 50 to 60% moisture. It is then preserved in an air-tight plastic wrap (single bales or one long tube). This requires specialized equipment and diligence in maintaining the integrity of the plastic wrap. [{See Arkansas Publication for More Information}](#) Harvesting for a dry hale product can be tricky during years we have ample spring rainfall.

Spray it. Use of herbicides to control annual ryegrass is probably the most common method practiced. Prowl H₂O (pendimethalin) is a pre-emergent herbicide labeled for dormant bermudagrass and bahiagrass pastures and hay meadows. Treatments should be applied prior to rainfall, to enhance soil incorporation and herbicide activation. Glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup, etc.) and Pastora (nicosulfuron + metsulfuron) are two post emergent herbicide options. As with any herbicide application timing is critical along with following label directions. Ideally for control, ryegrass needs to be sprayed when plants are less than 6 inches in height in the fall. Annual ryegrass is generally susceptible to postemergence herbicides in early winter prior to freezing temperatures and before seedhead emergence.

Unfortunately for bahiagrass growers there are no selective herbicides available for post emergence control of annual ryegrass. Spot treatments of glyphosate are recommended in bahiagrass for control. **For rates and any restrictions refer to product labels.**

Out compete it. Maintaining some substantial bermudagrass/bahiagrass stubble height (>4") could provide some shade that could reduce ryegrass seed germination. This may not provide 100% control however competition can help to reduce undesired plant growth. Maintaining a higher stubble height can also be beneficial for the warm season perennial future growing season. Higher stubble height means more substantial root structure to capture deeper soil moisture and nutrients.

*Article written by Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson, AgriLife Forage Extension Specialist, Overton TX,
vacorriher@ag.tamu.edu, 903-834-6191*



← Annual ryegrass seedhead

**Cattle on annual ryegrass at Noble
Research Institute in Oklahoma**



Polk County Produce Growers Breakfast Meeting, Last Friday of Odd Numbered Months

Join us for a fellowship of local growers and garden enthusiasts. Meetings allow participants a chance to gain knowledge and skills from vegetable and fruit specialists while also getting to know other growers in the county. Free donuts and coffee courtesy of Polk County Farm Bureau. Meetings occur the last Friday of odd numbered months at 8:00 am. Location is Farm Bureau Office in Livingston. If you will be a first-time attendee, please RSVP by calling the Polk County Extension office.

Tree Giveaway, February 3rd

The annual tree giveaway will occur at Polk County Chamber of Commerce 1001 US 59 Loop North, Livingston. The event will begin at noon and will last until all trees are passed out or 2:00. Trees will be bare root.

Forest Pest Seminar, February 10th

CEUs available for TDA applicator license holders, Society of American Foresters, Texas Accredited Foresters, Certified Arborist and Pro Logger. Cost is \$60 and seminar will be at Lufkin Convention Center. Registration: [Click Here](#) or call Angelina County extension office 936-634-6414.

East Texas Natural Resources Tours

Come join us on free tours of professionally managed sites across east Texas. Guided tours by professionals will allow participants a chance to gain in field knowledge of managing habitats, wildlife, and fisheries resources of east Texas. All tours will depart from the extension office in Livingston at 8:00, but transportation and lunch will not be provided. Tour Schedule: March 3, East Texas Plant Material Center, Winston 8 Ranch, SFA Experimental Forest; May 5, deer management in the field, recovery of bobwhite quail in Polk County; July 7, fisheries management, waterfowl management. RSVP required March 3: [Click Here](#) May 5: [Click Here](#) July 7: [Click Here](#) You can also RSVP by calling the Polk County extension office.

AgriLife Learn

AgriLife Learn online courses provide you access to over 300 courses you can access at any time. These courses range in a variety of topics from childhood development, health and wellness, livestock production, pest management, to gardening. Most of these courses do require a fee but are a great learning tool and provide you access to expert knowledge. Popular courses related to agriculture include tomato growing 101, aquaponics for beginners, equine reproductive management short course, basic plant breeding, and sheep and goat ranching 101. One of the most popular courses in Polk County is beekeeping 101, which is recommended for anyone interested in starting their own hives. For TDA pesticide applicator license holders, AgriLife Learn offers CEU courses. CEU courses include mosquito management, ants 101, herbicide mode of action, minimizing spray drift, and aquatic plant management. Courses can be found at <https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu>

Can you match these common herbicides with their trade names ?

Triclopyr

Glyphosate

Hexazinone

2,4D + aminopyralid

Imazapyr

Triclopyr + fluroxpyr

Arsenal and Habitat

PastureGard HL

Remedy, Pathfinder II, and Garlon 4

Velpar L and Pronone Power Pellet

GrazonNext HL and PasturAll HL

Roundup, Rodeo, and Eraser

Answers Below

Triclopyr + fluroxpyr = PastureGard HL

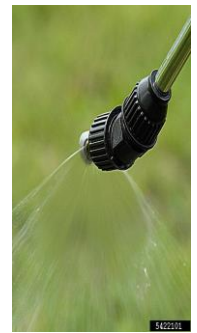
Imazapyr = Arsenal and Habitat

2,4D + aminopyralid = GrazonNext HL and PasturAll HL

Hexazinone = Velpar L and Pronone Power Pellet

Glyphosate = Roundup, Rodeo, and Eraser

Triclopyr = Remedy, Pathfinder II, and Garlon 4



Management Tips

- Monitor livestock for lice infestations during winter.
- Body conditions score (BCS) of cattle is essential for a successful operation. The reasoning is cattle with a BCS of 5 or more have a pregnancy rate of 90%, while cattle with a BCS of 4 or less have a pregnancy rate of 59% or less. <https://extension.okstate.edu/fact-sheets/body-condition-scoring-of-cows.html>
- Dormant months of January and February is the ideal time to plant bareroot hardwood trees like oaks.
- Apply a second application of nitrogen to cool season forages during Jan. to Feb.
- Disc strips between February and March to encourage early successional forbs that provide important browse to deer and food for a variety of wildlife.

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